

January 25, 2022

Zionsville Town Council  
1100 W. Oak St.  
Zionsville, IN 46077

Re: Possible Land Donation

Dear Council Members,

I am 74 years old and have lived in Zionsville and Boone County since 1978. Through those years I have raised my children, made lifelong friends and looked for ways to engage in this community. Though not a native, with all the changes I have seen, I sometimes feel close to it.

In the late 1990's I learned about the Boone County Habitat for Humanity organization. I began volunteering from time to time - enjoying the chance to pound some nails, meet some new people and in a small way, contribute to the cause - providing a home for a family who needed one. Over time I observed the quality and heart of this largely volunteer organization. And from time to time I got a glimpse of the folks whose homes we were building - meeting them at a groundbreaking, working alongside them for a day and, on a few occasions, observing their unbounded joy and gratitude as Habitat presented the keys to their new home. Those have been among the most powerful moments of my life. I have especially been impressed with the "system" that Habitat has used to do their work - from the careful process of selection of a future homeowner, to the sweat equity requirement each one has to fulfill and to the support and training each is given to equip them for success.

In recent years, I have been pounding fewer nails and have tried, from time to time to support the organization in other ways. And I find myself at one of those points today. I understand that, as the 2022 build year unfolds, Habitat again has plans, resources and volunteers lined up to help build as many as three homes for Boone County families who need them. But they do not have suitable lots on which to build.

Recently, I have learned that there is town owned property that you are considering making available to Habitat - property that would enable the construction of homes for a few residents who most certainly could use them. And I can't imagine an organization more capable and more worthy of receiving and using such a gift. So I would like to add my voice in support of such a donation. I believe it would be both good for Habitat, it's clients AND the Town of Zionsville while enabling the addition of a bit of affordable housing to our community.

Thank you for all you do to guide the growth and preserve the livability of this wonderful community.

Respectfully,

Gregg Barth